

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-11, 14-21, and 24-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 14-17, 21, and 24-27 have been amended. Claims 2-3, 12-13, and 22-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the pending claims 1, 4-11, 14-21, and 24-30 are patentable over the art of record and allowance is respectfully requested of claims 1, 4-11, 14-21, and 24-30.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Lee for indicating that claims 3-10, 13-20, and 23-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 21 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 13, and 23, respectively. The remaining pending claims depend from claims 1, 11, or 21. Therefore, Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Applicants respectfully traverse, but, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 11 to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1, 11, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (6,594,682). Applicants respectfully traverse, but, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 21 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 13, and 23, respectively. Therefore, Applicants believe that the rejection is moot.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims 1, 4-11, 14-21, and 24-30 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7973 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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